

WALLINGFORD AND WANTAGE DISTRICTS  
JOINT PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

	MR. MUSTOW	B.415
1.	<del>Dr. Didsbury</del>	<del>C.407</del>
2.	Mr. Morley Parry	A.419/421
3.	Mr. Perry	A.405

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**ANNUAL REPORT**  
OF THE  
**MEDICAL OFFICER**  
**OF HEALTH**

FOR THE YEAR  
1967



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# WALLINGFORD AND WANTAGE DISTRICTS JOINT PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

1967 – 1968

## WALLINGFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL

J. O. JOHNSTONE, ESQ., Herries, Reading Road, Wallingford.

DR. O. C. WILKINSON, Bezants, Winterbrook, Wallingford.

## WANTAGE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

J. WILSON, ESQ., 6 Church Street, Wantage, Berks.

MRS. S. M. MULLIN, 28 Fyfield Close, Wantage, Berks.

## WALLINGFORD RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

J. H. GALLO, ESQ., 31 The Croft, East Hagbourne, Didcot, Berks.

CAPT. C. W. MAYNE, Broomsticks, West Hagbourne, Didcot, Berks.

MRS. M. SCOTT, The White House, Mackney, Brightwell-cum-Sotwell, Wallingford.

## WANTAGE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

W. J. MARTIN, ESQ., 3 Parkside Bungalows, East Challow, Wantage, Berks. (*Vice-Chairman*).

BRIGADIER W. J. COLYER, Drayton Lodge, Hermitage, Newbury, Berks.

J. C. DOLAN, ESQ., Burnside, Manor Crescent, Compton, Newbury, Berks.

## BERKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

T. P. LAWRENCE, ESQ., Glebe House, Fawley, Wantage, Berks.

DR. A. G. WALTER, Middle Wharf, Thames Street, Wallingford. (*Chairman*).

## CLERK TO THE COMMITTEE

R. R. WRIGHT, Municipal Offices, Stone Hall, Wallingford.

## PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

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*Secretary*

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HEALTH DEPARTMENT,  
MUNICIPAL OFFICES,  
STONE HALL,  
WALLINGFORD

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE  
WALLINGFORD AND WANTAGE DISTRICTS  
JOINT PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am pleased to present my Annual Report for 1967. It includes, as usual, the information required by the Ministry of Health Circular 1/68.

The estimated population for the Combined District was 56,300, an increase of 1,740 (3.2%) over the 1966 figure. As there were 658 more births than deaths during the year, an estimated 1,082 moved into the District: 126 into Wallingford Borough; 23 into Wantage Urban District; 550 into Wallingford Rural District and 383 into Wantage Rural District.

There were five less live births during the year than in 1966. This fall has belatedly followed the national birth rate which has fallen for the last three years and which was 17,000 less in 1967 than in 1966. The reduction was not evenly spread in the four districts: Wallingford Borough had 16 fewer births; Wantage Urban District had 1 more birth; Wallingford Rural District had 18 more births; and Wantage Rural District had 8 fewer births. The relatively high birth rate in Wallingford Rural District was associated with a sharp rise in the number of illegitimate births in the district. The construction of the Didcot power station may have some bearing upon this phenomenon.

The stillbirth rate remained practically unchanged, 13.7 per 1,000 total births, the increase of 0.1 per 1,000 being due to the fall in the number of live births already referred to. The national rate was slightly lower than in 1966, 14.8 per 1,000.

The infant mortality rate was rather higher than in 1966 as there were 3 more infant deaths. At 14.3 per 1,000 live births it was still considerably better than the national rate (18.3 per 1,000). Of the total of 17 infant deaths under 1 year, 11 were under 1 week old, 2 were between 1 and 4 weeks old and 4 were over 4 weeks old. None of these infants was an illegitimate baby.

Total deaths, 528, were 24 fewer than in 1966. Corrected death rates for all four districts were below the provisional national rate of 11.2 per 1,000 population. Wallingford Borough again had a very high crude death rate (16.7 per 1,000 population) but the

corrected rate of 10 per 1,000 population, which took into account the relatively large numbers of old people living in residential accommodation within the Borough, was very little higher than the other districts.

Heart and circulatory diseases caused 250 of the 528 deaths (47.3%). Cancer and other malignant disease accounted for 100 deaths (19%); 20 of these were from lung cancer, two less than last year. Respiratory diseases caused 67 deaths (12.5%), one only being due to tuberculosis.

The total of 411 cases of infectious diseases notified during the year included 324 measles, not a particularly high number for an epidemic year. There were 48 cases of sonnei dysentery, mainly occurring in Didcot. These were not due to any serious outbreak but to several small ones in different parts of the town. Dysentery, like the common cold, is always with us and investigations following a notification will usually disclose further cases which otherwise might have passed unnoticed. There were six cases of food poisoning, three being members of one family and the others isolated cases. No sources of infection could be identified in any of these, all of which were due to salmonella organisms. Whooping cough notifications were considerably less than in 1966 and the reduction was probably due to an adjustment of the pertussis vaccine which made it more effective. One of the two cases of puerperal pyrexia occurred in a maternity unit, the patient almost certainly becoming infected because she was herself a nasal carrier of haemolytic streptococci. Vigorous and effective measures taken by the matron ensured that no other cases occurred.

The figures for the various immunisation procedures all showed an improvement over those for 1966 but there is no cause for complacency on this score. Many parents are still not bothering to have their children protected in spite of the vigorous efforts of all concerned.

It was necessary during the year to close down some of the child welfare clinics as shortages of staff made them impractical and attendances were so small. It is hoped that those who wish to attend will be able to reach an alternative clinic.

I should like, in conclusion, to express my thanks to members of the various Public Health Committees and to acknowledge the co-operation and assistance I have always received from my colleagues.

I have the honour to be,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

F. R. HOWELL.

August, 1968.



## POPULATION

District	Area in Acres	Estimated Mid-Year Population		Difference
		1966	1967	
Wallingford Borough	760	5,730	5,870	+ 140 (2.4%)
Wantage Urban	2,797	7,570	7,660	+ 90 (1.2%)
Wallingford Rural	21,790	21,800	22,680	+ 880 (4.0%)
Wantage Rural	74,181	19,460	20,090	+ 630 (3.2%)
Combined Districts	99,528	54,560	56,300	+ 1,740 (3.2%)

## LIVE BIRTHS

District	No. of live births in 1967			Birth rate per 1,000 population		Corrected Birth rate per 1,000 population	
	Male	Female	Total	1966	1967	1966	1967
Wallingford Borough	61	51	112	22.3	19.1	21.0	17.8
Wantage Urban	61	75	136	18.0	17.8	17.6	17.4
Wallingford Rural	279	256	535	23.7	23.6	24.7	24.1
Wantage Rural	215	188	403	21.1	20.1	20.5	19.3
Combined Districts	616	570	1,186	21.8	21.1		
England and Wales*			832,000			17.7	17.2

\* Estimated figures for 1967.

## STILL BIRTHS

District	No. of still births		Still birth rate per 1,000 total births (live and still)	
	1966	1967	1966	1967
Wallingford Borough	2	2	15	18
Wantage Urban	2	1	15	7
Wallingford Rural	8	7	15	13
Wantage Rural	4	6	10	15
Combined Districts	16	16	13.2	13.3
England & Wales*	13,200	12,500	15.4	14.8

\* Estimated figures for 1967.

## ILLEGITIMATE LIVE BIRTHS

District	Number of illegitimate births per annum									
	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967
Wallingford Borough	3	3	5	2	4	3	5	5	4	5
Wantage Urban	4	6	6	6	8	5	3	7	6	8
Wallingford Rural	17	8	17	15	19	28	23	25	18	37
Wantage Rural	18	14	15	11	17	17	15	17	20	16
Combined Districts	42	31	43	34	48	53	46	54	48	66
Rate per 1,000 total live births (Combined Districts)	51	36	49	39	47	53	40	46	40	56
Rate per 1,000 total live births (England and Wales)	49	51	54	59	66	69	72	77	79	84

## TOTAL DEATHS

District	No. of Deaths 1967			Crude death rate per 1,000 population		Corrected death rate per 1,000 population	
	Male	Female	Total	1966	1967	1966	1967
Wallingford Borough	44	54	98	12.9	16.7	5.8	10.0
Wantage Urban	31	38	69	7.7	9.0	6.2	8.2
Wallingford Rural	89	116	205	12.3	9.0	10.1	8.1
Wantage Rural	78	78	156	7.8	7.8	9.4	9.8
Combined Districts	242	286	528	10.1	9.4		
England and Wales			542,519			11.7	11.2

## INFANT MORTALITY

District	No. of infant deaths under 12 months of age		Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births	
	1966	1967	1966	1967
Wallingford Borough	4	2	39	18
Wantage Urban	0	1	0	7
Wallingford Rural	3	8	6	15
Wantage Rural	7	6	17	15
Combined Districts	14	17	11.8	14.3
England and Wales	16,069	15,267	18.9	18.3



DIPHTHERIA, WHOOPING COUGH AND TETANUS IMMUNISATION  
TRIPLE ANTIGEN 1967

District	Under 1 year	1 year	2 years	3 years	4-15 years	Others under 16	Total
Wallingford Borough							
Primary Course	66	4	3	5	11	7	96
Booster	—	22	41	9	41	9	122
Wallingford Rural							
Primary Course	290	104	24	—	12	—	430
Booster	—	117	189	23	49	2	380
Wantage Urban							
Primary Course	94	29	8	—	—	2	133
Booster	—	21	62	6	26	—	115
Wantage Rural							
Primary Course	235	83	9	—	4	—	331
Booster	—	159	129	8	9	6	311
Combined Districts	685	539	465	51	152	26	1,918

DIPHTHERIA AND TETANUS IMMUNISATION 1967

District	Under 1 year	1 year	2 years	3 years	4-15 years	Others under 16	Total
Wallingford Borough							
Primary Course	—	—	2	9	—	—	11
Booster	—	—	—	2	143	31	176
Wallingford Rural							
Primary Course	—	—	9	—	7	—	16
Booster	—	—	—	4	246	21	271
Wantage Urban							
Primary Course	—	—	2	—	3	—	5
Booster	—	—	—	—	153	6	159
Wantage Rural							
Primary Course	—	—	—	4	4	—	8
Booster	—	—	—	—	199	22	221
Combined Districts	—	—	13	19	755	80	867

# CAUSES OF DEATH

	Wallingford Borough M. F. Total	Wantage U.D. M. F. Total	Wallingford R.D. M. F. Total	Wantage R.D. M. F. Total	Combined Districts 1967 1966
Tuberculosis, respiratory	— — —	— — —	1 — 1	— — —	1 1
Tuberculosis, other	— — —	— — —	— — —	— — —	— —
Syphilitic disease	— — —	— — —	— 1 1	— — —	1 —
Diphtheria	— — —	— — —	— — —	— — —	— —
Whooping cough	— — —	— — —	— — —	— — —	— —
Meningococcal infection	— — —	— — —	— — —	— — —	— —
Acute Poliomyelitis	— — —	— — —	— — —	— — —	— —
Measles	— — —	— — —	— — —	— — —	— 1
Other infective and parastic diseases	— — —	— — —	— 1 1	— 1 1	2 1
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	2 — 2	— 1 1	2 2 4	1 — 1	8 7
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	3 — 3	3 — 3	4 — 4	10 — 10	20 22
Malignant neoplasm, breast	— 1 1	— — —	— 7 7	— 3 3	11 12
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	— — —	— 2 2	— — —	— 1 1	3 2
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	1 6 7	2 2 4	10 9 19	12 12 24	54 53
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	— — —	1 — 1	2 1 3	— — —	4 4
Diabetes	— 1 1	1 — 1	— — —	1 2 3	5 5
Vascular lesions of the nervous system	11 12 23	4 10 14	7 22 29	6 11 17	83 74
Coronary disease, angina	5 5 10	8 7 15	26 6 32	20 7 27	84 107

Hypertension with heart disease	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	2	—	1	1	3
Other heart disease	4	3	7	2	2	4	23	27	4	11	15	53
Other circulatory disease	3	1	4	—	2	2	6	6	4	5	9	27
Influenza	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
Pneumonia	7	11	18	—	1	1	4	14	4	3	7	44
Bronchitis	3	1	4	1	2	3	7	2	1	1	2	18
Other diseases of the respiratory system	—	—	—	1	—	1	2	—	1	—	1	4
Ulcers of stomach and duodenum	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	2
Gastritis, enteritis, and diarrhoea	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	1	1	4
Nephritis and nephrosis	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	3	3	4
Hyperplasia of prostate	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Pregnancy, child-birth, abortion	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Congenital malformations	2	—	2	—	—	—	1	2	1	1	2	7
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	2	12	14	4	7	11	5	12	9	8	17	59
Motor vehicle accidents	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	—	3	3	6	8
All other accidents	—	1	1	—	1	1	3	4	—	2	2	11
Suicide	—	—	—	3	1	4	—	1	1	1	2	7
Homicide and operations of war	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	44	54	98	31	38	69	89	116	78	78	156	528
												552



### SMALLPOX VACCINATION 1967

District	9-12 months	1 year	2-4 years	5-15 years	Over 15 years	Total
Wallingford Borough						
Primary	—	70	13	—	—	83
Re-Vacc	—	—	11	8	30	49
Wallingford Rural						
Primary	—	308	19	19	—	346
Re-Vacc	—	—	16	67	19	102
Wantage Urban						
Primary	—	89	26	7	—	122
Re-Vacc	—	—	6	24	3	33
Wantage Rural						
Primary	—	264	13	—	—	277
Re-Vacc	—	—	12	62	18	92
Combined Districts	—	731	116	187	70	1,104

### ORAL POLIOMYELITIS VACCINATION

District	Primary Course (3 doses)	Re-inforcing Doses
Wallingford Borough		
All ages	129	125
Wallingford Rural		
All ages	565	610
Wantage Urban		
All ages	235	178
Wantage Rural		
All ages	511	492
Combined Districts	1,440	1,405

# B.C.G. VACCINATION

School	Number positive at first skin test			Number vaccinated			Number of conversions		
	1965	1966	1967	1965	1966	1967	1965	1966	1967
Wallingford Grammar	6	13	2	43	49	50	40	45	47
Blackstone County Sec.	10	12	4	78	86	89	62	79	82
King Alfred's Grammar	1	3	4	29	44	43	27	41	40
Icknield County Sec.	9	19	10	43	68	57	41	56	54
Didcot Girls' Grammar	—	9	4	—	121	79	—	115	75
St. Birinus County Sec.	10	10	3	75	85	87	67	62	78
St. Frideswide's Cnty. Sec.	8	15	12	54	69	119	51	63	106
Cranford House P.N.E.U.	—	3	—	21	12	23	18	9	18
Segsbury	10	17	7	57	38	49	49	35	45
The Downs	9	2	16	73	52	57	64	45	—
Total	63	103	62	473	624	653	419	550	545

# NOTIFIABLE DISEASES

	Wfd. Boro.	Wantage U.D.	Wfd. R.D.	Wantage R.D.	Total 1967	Total 1966
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	6	—	41	1	48	25
Encephalitis (Acute)	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	1
Food Poisoning	4	—	1	1	6	8
Malaria B.T.	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	40	36	72	176	324	271
Meningococcal Infection	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia (Acute Primary)	—	—	—	—	—	1
Poliomyelitis (Paralytic)	—	—	—	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis (Non-Paralytic)	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	1	—	—	2	1
Scarlet Fever	—	2	2	4	8	8
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis (Respiratory)	—	2	7	4	13	12
Tuberculosis (Other Forms)	—	1	2	—	3	4
Whooping Cough	2	—	1	4	7	41
Total	53	42	126	190	411	372

## CHILD WELFARE CLINICS

<b>Centre</b>	<b>Address and where held</b>
Blewbury	Parish Hall; First Tuesday, 2.30—4.30 p.m. (Advisory only)
Brightwell	Village Hall; First Wednesday, 3.0—4.0 p.m.
Cholsey	The Laurence Hall; Second and Fourth Wednesdays, 2.0—4.0 p.m.
Compton	Village Hall; Third Wednesday, 2.0—4.15 p.m.
East Challow	British Legion Premises; 2nd Monday, 2.30— 4.0 p.m.
East Hanney	Village Hall; First Wednesday, 2.0—4.0 p.m.
East Hendred	Parish Hall; Fourth Thursday, 3.0—4.30 p.m.
Grove	Grove Hall; Second and Fourth Fridays, 2.0—4.0 p.m.
Hermitage	Village Hall; Second Monday, 2.0—4.30 p.m.
Long Wittenham	Village Hall; First Tuesday, 2.30—4.0 p.m.
Wallingford	Conservative Hall; First and Third Fridays, 2.0—4.0 p.m.

## FAMILY PLANNING CLINICS

<b>Centre</b>	<b>Address and where held</b>
Wantage	Wantage Hospital; First Wednesday, 2.0 p.m.—3.30 p.m. and Third and Fourth Thursday, 6.30—8 p.m.
Didcot	Didcot Hospital; Every Thursday, 7.0 p.m.—9.0 p.m. First and Third Mondays, 7.0—9.0 p.m. for new patients.

## CERVICAL CYTOLOGY CLINICS

<b>Centre</b>	<b>Address and where held</b>
Wantage	Wantage Hospital; Second Wednesday, 2.0—4.0 p.m.
Wallingford	St. Mary's Hospital; Fourth Thursday, 2.0—4.0 p.m.



# **BOROUGH OF WALLINGFORD**

## **REPORT OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR**

### **WATER SUPPLY**

The whole of the dwelling houses in the Borough are supplied with water from main piped supplies with the exception of twenty-two houses which are supplied from a private borehole.

Forty-two samples of chlorinated water as distributed were taken for bacteriological examination. Five samples showed evidence of contamination, all from a block of four houses, and residents in the area were all advised to boil their drinking water before use. The local water board were contacted and they carried out cleansing work to the supply, after which all samples were satisfactory. The remaining thirty-seven samples were all found to be satisfactory.

A number of industrial premises in the Borough obtain their water from private boreholes. These premises are mainly situated in the Hithercroft Road area. Thirty-six samples were taken from boreholes of which fourteen were found to be unsatisfactory. This is a higher percentage of unsatisfactory samples than last year (39% unsatisfactory compared with 28% last year) and positive steps are being taken to introduce mains water supply to the area.

The fluoride content of the water supplied from the Wallingford boreholes is 0.15 parts per million. The supply is supplemented by water from outside the Borough, the fluoride content of which is less than 0.10 parts per million.

### **SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL**

Sewage from the whole of the Borough is pumped for treatment to the Wallingford Rural District Council's disposal works at Cholsey and this arrangement has continued to work satisfactorily.

### **REFUSE COLLECTION**

A weekly collection of refuse from all properties in the Borough has been maintained satisfactorily throughout the year by a team of three loaders and driver with a 24 cub. yard compression type refuse vehicle, with a side loading lorry as a reserve. As development has continued in the Borough the pressure of work on this one collection team has reached a point when either additional labour and an additional vehicle is required or alternatively an incentive bonus scheme is instituted.

The Council also arrange the collection of extra or bulky refuse free of charge. The removal of abandoned cars is dealt with by an outside contractor.

All refuse collected is taken to the Wallingford Rural District Council's tip for disposal. The recent installation of a Seerdrum Pulverisation Plant will lengthen the life of this tip, although tipping space is still short and efforts to find alternative means of disposal are continuing.

## STREET CLEANSING

The Council employ four workmen on hand-sweeping of the streets; these concentrate mainly on the centre of the town. Consideration is being given to obtaining a suction sweeper to give a fuller and more efficient service.

## RODENT CONTROL

Summary of work carried out:—

	<i>Inspections</i>	<i>Treatments</i>
Premises other than agricultural	67	64
Agricultural premises	4	3
Sewers	2	2
	—	—
	73	69
	—	—

## MILK SAMPLES

Twenty-four samples of milk were taken for bacteriological examination and all samples passed the appropriate tests.

Two samples of Raw TT. milk were sampled, the laboratory being asked to test particularly for salmonella, both were negative.

No raw milks were taken and examined particularly for brucella abortus.

## ICE CREAM

Sixteen premises are registered for the sale of ice cream. All registered premises have been inspected during the year and all owners or occupiers of the premises notified of any contraventions. The general standard of these premises was found to be satisfactory. No ice cream is manufactured in the Borough.

In addition to sampling from registered premises samples were also obtained from catering establishments, using their equipment, to establish the efficiency of sterilisation of scoops and similar equipment. In most cases it was found to be satisfactory and where it was not, advice was given and further samples proved satisfactory.

Several companies operate vans selling ice cream in the Borough and in general the standard of hygiene of these was found to be satisfactory.



Twenty-two samples of ice cream and six samples of fruit lollies were taken for bacteriological examination with the following results: —

ICE CREAM

- 17 placed in Provisional Grade I
- 4 placed in Provisional Grade II
- 1 placed in Provisional Grade III

Those in grades II and III were resampled and returned as Grade I.

The six samples of fruit lollies were taken in two batches. The first batch of three were all reported as showing slight contamination and on resampling two were found to show contamination.

Discussions took place with the Public Health Laboratory and it was decided that the contamination was almost certainly due to the fact that excessive handling of the lollie was necessary to get it into the small size sampling jars used. Other means of sampling this product are being investigated.

FOOD HYGIENE (GENERAL) REGULATIONS 1960

Type of Business	No. of premises	Compliance with Reg. 16	No. where Reg. 19 applies	Compliance with Reg. 19
Butcher	8	8	8	8
Grocer	10	10	6	6
Fried Fish Shops	2	2	2	2
Fishmongers	2	2	2	2
Greengrocers	6	6	—	—
Cafes	8	8	8	8
Hotels	1	1	1	1
Bakers	2	2	2	2
Confectioners	10	10	—	—
Public Houses	13	13	13	13
Slaughterhouses	1	1	1	1

The following numbers of visits were made to food premises during the year.

Type of Business	No. of Visits	Type of Business	No. of Visits
Butchers	42	Hotels	4
Grocers	47	Bakers	12
Greengrocers	24	Confectioners	20
Fried Fish shops	8	Public Houses	26
Fishmongers	5	Off Licenses	6
Cafes	48		



Visits were also made to schools, hospitals and old peoples' homes kitchens, making a total of 257 visits made in connection with the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations.

Nine informal notices were served on owners or occupiers and all were complied with.

In addition to the routine visits to these premises a visit was made to each one and the occupier given a notice to display asking customers not to bring dogs into food shops. The shopkeepers response to this was generally good, the notice being displayed in the majority of the shops.

## MARKET STALLS AND DELIVERY REGULATIONS

All food stalls on the market were informed, in March, of the general provisions of these Regulations and all were brought to a standard where they complied. Regular visits during the year have showed no serious falling off in standard.

## WALLINGFORD FAIR

The following food stalls were present at the annual fair: —

- 8 Hot Dog
- 7 Candy floss
- 4 Toffee apple and sweets
- 1 Fish and Chip

All were inspected on the first evening and the following defects noted:

- 3 stalls had no hot water
- 4 stalls had no first aid kit
- 7 stalls did not have the appropriate name and address displayed

All stall holders were notified of the defect or defects to their stalls and on a subsequent inspection all were satisfactory.

## PREMISES REGISTERED UNDER SECTION 16 OF THE FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955

(a) Sale of ice cream	...	...	...	...	16
(b) Preparation or manufacture of sausages, potted, pressed, pickled and preserved food					8

## METHOD OF DISPOSAL OF CONDEMNED FOOD

All fresh meat condemned as unfit for human consumption is sprayed with liquid acid green and destroyed. All condemned tinned food is disposed of by the local authority with their refuse. Condemned frozen food is disposed of in the same way as tinned food.

## BAKEHOUSES

There are two bakehouses in the Borough. Both were inspected and their condition was satisfactory.

## HOUSES AND MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

Fifty houses were erected by the Borough Council during the year.

Nine houses were erected by private enterprise.

Six houses were represented as unfit for human habitation.

One house was made fit and the Closing Order lifted.

The Council operate a small camping and caravan site at their Riverside Park for holiday purposes only, the maximum stay permitted being fourteen days.

## BATHING PLACE

The Borough Council own and maintain an open air swimming pool and paddling pool at the Riverside Park near Wallingford Bridge.

The recirculation and purification plants have continued to function satisfactorily.

In addition to the Council pool there are two school swimming pools in the Borough.

Twenty-four samples of water were taken from the pools. Six were unsatisfactory, five of these were taken at the beginning of the season and after the persons responsible had been reminded of their duties little trouble was encountered. The remaining eighteen samples were all found to be satisfactory.

The conveniences at the Riverside Park which serve both the swimming pool and camping site were converted from cesspool drainage to main drainage.

## FOOD INSPECTION

The following quantities of unsound food were examined and voluntarily surrendered:—

Tinned Meat	103½ lbs.	— In nearly all cases this has been confined to large tins of ham, tongue and pressed meats which have been insufficiently processed and the tins have consequently blown.
Frozen Food	289 pkts.	— the amounts surrendered were due, in one case, to a breakdown in the refrigeration plant and in the other, to over delivery by the suppliers who delivered more than the shop refrigerators could hold.



Processed Meat (smoked)	16½ lbs.	— this was a consignment of ham found to be maggot infested.
Fresh meat (other than from slaughterhouse)	55½ lbs.	— usually condemned because of decomposition due to storage for too long a period.

## FOOD AND DRUGS ACT 1955

The following complaints were received concerning food: —

1. Mouldy bread — no formal action could be taken in this case as the bread was bought five days before the complaint was made.
2. Alleged Maggot in roll — this was sent to the office through the post and on arrival no maggot could be found.
3. Fly in orange drink — passed to Henley Rural District Council.
4. Mouldy mince pie — on investigation it was found that the pastry on the base of this pie was very thin and the supposed mould was in fact the mincemeat showing through the pastry.
5. Foreign matter in bread roll — this was a roll containing some burnt dough from previous mixes. Baker warned.

## PUBLIC HEALTH NUISANCES

The following alleged nuisances have been reported during the year: —

1. Complaint of smoke nuisance from a school incinerator. The caretaker was advised as to proper control of such an incinerator and no further complaints have been received.
2. Complaint of smell from fried fish shop. This complaint was reported to Committee and it was decided that no nuisance existed.
3. Complaint of noise from engineering works. Complaints were received from residents near this factory concerning the noise from a shot blast cabinet. After discussions the firm agreed to build a new cabinet which would be housed inside a building and not in the open as at present.
4. Complaint of fan noise from factory. Complaints were received concerning the noise of a group of fans newly installed on a factory roof. The company concerned installed silencers, but complaints continued. Investigations are now in progress to decide if a nuisance exists and if so what steps can be taken to abate it.



MEAT INSPECTION

100% inspection is carried out at the one slaughterhouse in the Borough.

During the year a steriliser has been installed so that a sterile wiping cloth can be used for each carcass. Discussions are taking place with a view to installing a water spray to replace the method of wiping with cloths.

The wooden pig scalding tank has been scrapped as unhygienic and replaced by a metal one.

The general condition of the slaughterhouse is satisfactory.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	320	20	58	2,246	846
Number inspected	320	20	58	2,246	846
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticercosis</i>					
Whole carcasses condemned	1	Nil	Nil	2	3
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	37	7	Nil	112	59
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuber- culosis and cysticercosis	11.8	35.0	Nil	5.0	7.3
<i>Tuberculosis only</i>					
Whole carcasses condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	2
Percentage of which some part or organ was con- demned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	0.25
<i>Cysticercosis</i>					
Carcase of which some part or organ was condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcasses submitted to treat- ment by refrigeration	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Generalised and totally con- demned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

# FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS

## FACTORIES ACT 1961

### PART ONE OF THE ACT

#### 1. INSPECTIONS

Premises	Number on Register	Number of Inspections	Number of Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(1) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by local authority	1	1	—	—
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the local authority	58	36	—	—
(3) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the local authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	3	7	—	—
TOTAL	62	44	—	—

There are no outworkers employed in the Borough.

## OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

All the premises in the Borough to which the Act applies are registered and following inspections the owners or occupiers have been notified of contraventions.

### A. REGISTRATION AND GENERAL INSPECTIONS

Class of Premises	Total number of registered premises at end of year
Offices	32
Retail shops	79
Wholesale shops, warehouses	3
Catering establishments open to the public	9
Fuel storage depots	—
Total	123

### B. Number of visits of all kinds by Inspectors to Registered Premises — 138.

All premises to which the Act applies were inspected in order to give advice and ascertain whether the requirements of the Act had been carried out.

Almost the whole of the premises now comply with the requirements of the Act including washing and sanitary accommodation requirements, whilst the remainder have the work in hand.

It has not been necessary to institute proceedings and the general reaction to the Act has been satisfactory, the majority of owners and employers accepting responsibility.

Two accidents were reported during the year, both taking place in food shops, and the following action was taken :—

1. This accident was caused by a woman catching her foot on a crate in the storeroom — advice was given as to the tidiness of the store.
2. In this case a man cut his hand whilst trying to make a hole in a piece of cardboard. The shop manager and the injured man were both advised about care when handling knives.

July 1968.



## WANTAGE URBAN DISTRICT

### REPORT OF THE SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

#### WATER SUPPLIES

Some extensions have been made to the Thames Valley Water Board mains at Belmont and Stockham to supply the needs of new residential development. At present most of the water supply continues to be drawn from the Manor Road bore-holes where it is dosed with chlorine 0.25 parts per million. Analysis shows the natural fluoride content to be 0.1 parts per million. The supply is augmented by the trunk main from Childrey Warren as needed.

The supply of water to the district has proved satisfactory in quantity. Reports by the Public Analyst state that the mains water was without odour and of satisfactory taste, it is of good chemical purity, of moderate hardness and satisfactory for the public supply. The water is not plumbo-solvent.

There are 2,216 dwellings situated in the district supplied direct by public water mains, only 8 houses have external standpipes as a means of supply. The population involved is 7,659 and 12 respectively.

Fifteen bacteriological samples of water have been obtained during the year from Thames Valley Water Board mains supplies. Samples of treated and raw water were obtained; all were satisfactory.

Forty samples have been taken from the nine private supplies in use; 15 samples were satisfactory and 25 unsatisfactory. Four supplies were found to be consistently satisfactory. One is kept permanently chlorinated. Of the remaining four which were unsatisfactory, two vary, being contaminated only occasionally; the other two are not improving, though one is only used for non-domestic purposes.

In every case where contamination occurs the householders, or persons in charge, are warned of the danger and strongly advised to boil all water used for domestic and drinking purposes.

Three chemical samples were taken, two from mains supply reported on as stated; one was taken from the private supply at the 'Downs Stables' bore-hole, reported upon as without odour or taste and satisfactory from the chemical point of view.

#### FOOD HYGIENE

There are 89 food premises within the district which receive inspection as often as necessary.



Those with premises which do not comply with regulations have been requested to carry out remedial works in the near future. It has been necessary to draw 359 defects to the attention of owners of food premises.

Seven certificates needed for export of food have been issued during the year.

One shop-keeper decided to remove dates from packets of bacon, when they became out of date, with an ink eraser. Action was taken to stop this practice. The manufacturers suggest it might destroy the hermetic seal of the packet and accelerate decomposition.

Notices have been issued to all food shops requesting the customers to keep dogs out of their shops.

FOOD HYGIENE (GENERAL) REGULATIONS 1960

Trade	Number	Comply with Reg. 16	Reg. 19 applies	Comply with Reg. 19
Bakers Shop, Bakehouses	3	3	3	3
Butchers	5	4	5	5
Cafes, Canteens, Restaurants	5	4	5	5
Chemists	2	1	2	2
Wet Fish	1	1	0	0
Fried Fish	2	2	2	2
Greengrocers	4	3	0	0
Grocers and General Stores	18	17	18	15
Hotels & Licensed Premises	16	14	16	16
Public Halls and Clubs	9	4	9	5
Schools' Meals Kitchens	8	8	8	8
Sweet Shops	9	9	0	0
Other Premises	8	7	6	6
Totals	90	77	74	67

MEAT AND OTHER FOOD INSPECTION

The following foods were inspected and found unfit for human consumption. All of this food was voluntarily surrendered and buried in the tip under supervision.

Meat and offal	113 pounds
Fish	14 pounds
Cheese	6 pounds
Jam	80 pounds
Peas	26 pounds
Rice	112 pounds
Total	351 pounds

There are no poultry processing premises in the district. Routine inspection of poultry in shops is carried out, no seizures were made during the year.

The following foreign material or mould in foods caused local residents to make complaints to this authority.

BUTTER	Fibrous material, probably wood.
CANNED MEAT	Noodles and chicken capri, piece of wood.
COOKED MEATS	Cooked chicken containing maggots; mouldy sliced meat.
VEGETABLES	A splinter of steel in a tin of peas.
CEREALS	Bag of flour with Psocids in top fold.
CONFECTIONERY	Mouldy apple pie.
OTHER FOOD	A piece of steel in a packet of dates.

In every case the matter has been drawn to the attention of the shop-keeper, supplier and, where appropriate, the manufacturer. The intention is to make sure that the manufacturer is aware that the Council is most concerned regarding these incidents and requires to be assured that an investigation will be carried out.

In one case where a phial of chemicals was found in milk, the Council decided to prosecute the retailer of the milk. A prosecution was instituted by the Council on 13th September, 1967, which was successful, and the Elms Farm Dairy, Wantage was fined £10-0-0 and £10-0-0 costs. The incident concerned delivery to the Church Girls' and Infants' school of a bottle of milk containing a plastic phial in which was about 5 ml of a milky fluid which, according to the Public Analyst, contained aromatic substances normally associated with the relief of colds, i.e. menthol and chlorinated phenols. A 5-year-old boy found the milk tasted "funny" and told his class teacher, who found the phial. After a medical check was made on the boy, the bottle and phial was brought to the office.

At the hearing, evidence was given on behalf of the Council by the class teacher and headmistress of the school. The defendants' contention was that the phial had been inserted by a child but the magistrates disagreed and found the case proven.

## MILK SUPPLIES

Fifty-two samples of milk were obtained during the year; 3 results were void, 4 failed the methylene blue test, the rest were satisfactory. The 4 unsatisfactory samples were all taken from the Convent dairy. Checks were made where the milk was produced at the Convent farm and it was noted that the washings from the churns returned from the Convent had a high plate count. It transpired that a wrong method of sterilisation was being used at the Convent. This has been put right and since then we have taken 5 satisfactory samples.



The standard of retailed milk in the town has been better in quality this year, it is handled and stored satisfactorily and overstocking has ceased. Only two complaints regarding sour milk have been made, a third complaint resulted in the court case already reported.

Three samples were examined for brucella abortus; all were satisfactory.

Seven new licences have been issued by the County Council for retail sale of milk from shops and ultra high temperature milk is being sold in local shops.

## FOOD SAMPLING

Fifty-three food samples were obtained during the year for examination by the public health laboratory, other than ice cream, milk and water.

	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Cream	11	1 (and one void)
Liquid egg	3	3
Watercress	1	1
Meringues	2	1
Meat and Offal	4	3
Meat and fish patés and pastes	16	8

Cream samples were taken to find out the state of cream being sold to the public and, generally, results were satisfactory. A certain amount of cream is manufactured in the adjoining district and our samples provide a local independent check.

Liquid egg samples were taken at two bakehouses and a food factory; some slight contamination was occurring but the faults have been rectified. No alpha-amylase test is carried out at the local public health laboratory; plate counts and culture tests are carried out. There are no liquid egg pasteurisation-plants in this district.

Samples of two meringues were obtained to check the unsatisfactory samples of liquid egg; however the organisms were being destroyed in the baking process.

Watercress being sold locally, produced in the adjoining district, was sampled in conjunction with the Wantage R.D.C. inspectors and they have advised on satisfactory sterilisation methods.

Two meat and offal samples were submitted for examination after illness; one proved to be contaminated with staphylococcus aureus and albus, the other was satisfactory.

The other meat samples were taken as part of an investigation into contamination of meat and fish pastes and patés at a local specialty foods producing factory. Two routine samples of a duck paté were sent to the laboratory, from jars filled before retort heat



treatment and after treatment. Results showed a heavy plate count, with pathogenic organisms in the former. There was a lower plate count with no pathogens in the latter. Action was immediately taken to submit further samples from all points of production to the laboratory and to take nasal swabs from employees, engaged in 'picking' duck carcasses, the most likely point of contamination. Negative results were obtained from the swabs. A full investigation was also started into the whole of every process producing a food likely to support bacteriological growth, of which there were about fourteen. All the duck paté was withdrawn from sale, tested by laboratories and by human volunteers, all of whom survived without illness. This consignment was eventually destroyed by the company rather than placing it back on the market.

Once the initial shock of the results and their implications had been accepted by the management they were keen to co-operate with our staff and took the following action: a special repair and cleaning programme was put into action to bring the factory up to a standard above that required by the "Food Hygiene (General) Regulations 1960" followed by a routine cleaning and maintenance programme. Staff were brought down from the main factory to investigate and take action. A drive was started on employees to raise the standard of personal hygiene. Action taken against rats, mice, insects and birds was stepped up and a bacteriological laboratory was set up in the factory for future control of foods. The process of producing patés and pastes, which took three days, was reduced to one day duration. Retorting of the final product is now being carried out at a higher temperature and chlorinating plant for the cooling water is to be installed next year.

All records of bacteriological examination at the factory laboratory are available for our inspection and routine check samples have proved satisfactory. If the high standard of hygiene at this factory continues, together with routine bacteriological examinations, there should be very little chance of any further incident occurring.

## ICE CREAM AND SIMILAR PRODUCTS

Twenty-one premises are registered and sell pre-packed ice cream: four cafes sell ice cream from bulk. Samples were obtained from these premises for bacteriological examination with the following results:—

- 21 Ice cream samples placed in provisional grade 1.
- 5 Ice cream samples placed in provisional grade 2.
- 2 Ice cream samples placed in provisional grade 3.
- 1 Ice cream sample placed in provisional grade 4.

Action was taken to rectify the conditions causing the Grade 3 and 4 samples and Grade 1 samples have since been obtained from these premises.

Four new mobile ice cream sales vans have appeared in the district during this year, in addition to the two vans operating in 1966. Eight samples were obtained from the vans, results were: —

Two samples void.

Two samples provisional grade 3.

One sample provisional grade 2.

One sample provisional grade 1.

This leaves much to be desired; operators have little regard for Inspectors' advice and considerable pressure has to be brought to bear to achieve any works on the vehicles to make them hygienic. Samples have to be obtained when possible and delay in reaching laboratories often makes them void. Many vehicles only appear late in the evening after working hours and have been known to play chimes as late as 9.5 p.m. which is forbidden under the Noise Abatement Act 1960. It is hoped to bring pressure to bear on the local authorities from whose districts these vans operate, next year.

Sampling of soft ice cream from vans in the local Tonibell Ltd., depot has continued jointly with the Rural District during the year, the aim being to obtain grade 1 samples from each salesman. This aim has been achieved with the exception of 2 vans which have been taken off the road for mechanical reasons. In addition talks have been given to the salesmen on personal hygiene and the standard of hygiene in the depot was raised. It is pleasing to state that no complaints have been received from other authorities regarding poor samples from the vans, or the state of the vehicles.

Thirty samples have been obtained from "Tonibell" vans during the year with the following results: —

Grade 1	23
Grade 2	3
Grade 3	2
Grade 4	2

Vans giving the lower grade results were resampled until Grade 1 was achieved and on every visit inspections of vehicles were made with satisfactory results in most cases.

## MOBILE FOOD SHOPS, MARKET STALLS AND DELIVERY VEHICLES

As 1966 drew to a close, steps were taken to acquaint the owners of food sales vehicles, delivery vehicles and market stalls of their obligation under the new regulations which came into force this year. We had little difficulty in enforcing the regulations and now that a year has passed only an occasional contravention arises from vehicles which are based outside our area and trade within it occasionally. The Berkshire County Council Act 1953 did provide



a basic register of food hawkers which helped us in our task. The most difficult item to enforce seemed to be the provision of sinks and hot water in vehicles.

## SWIMMING BATHS AND PADDLING POOLS

The following samples were taken during the year : —

St. Mary's School Bath	2 Samples, both satisfactory.
Private Pools (on request)	2 Samples, 1 satisfactory, 1 unsatisfactory.
Garston Lane School Bath	1 Sample, satisfactory.
King Alfred School Bath	1 Sample, satisfactory.
Icknield School Bath	1 Sample, satisfactory.
Paddling Pool, Manor Road	2 Samples, both satisfactory.
U.D.C. Bath, Mill Street	3 Samples, all satisfactory.

The baths and pools were also checked for chlorine level regularly. No difficulty was experienced in maintaining a reasonable standard at the paddling pool and with a chlorination and filtration plant installed at the Urban District Council bath, standards were satisfactory. The direction that the use of Ortho-tolidine cease for testing purposes will involve expense in new testing equipment next year. Inquiries have been made to four companies regarding testing equipment and advice has been given to local schools on replacement. All persons in charge of pools were circularised regarding the use of Ortho-tolidine and the fatal accident which occurred elsewhere when de-scaling a filter.

## SEWERS AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The need to increase the capacity of the Bradfield Farm Sewerage Disposal Works and to construct a new and larger trunk sewer to the works is becoming increasingly urgent. The disposal works is working greatly in excess of its designed capacity and the resultant problems are numerous and troublesome.

Sewers have been laid on the Belmont and Stockham estates and some are already in use.

The trade effluent from the preserves factory is subject to frequent analysis and during the year, a flow meter and a pH meter were installed.

## REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

A weekly collection of domestic and trade refuse has been maintained.

The collection vehicle is requiring an increasing amount of maintenance and spares, but it seems inadvisable to look for a new vehicle whilst the future of the collection and disposal arrangements is still undecided.



The position of the tip at "S" hill has been reassessed and it is now felt that at least another year's life can be obtained from it. Negotiations with the tip owner at Stanford-in-the-Vale were unfruitful, so that future proposals still involve early co-operation with the Wantage R.D.C. in the form of pulverisation at Childrey. In 1968, progress should be made to solve these problems which have been outstanding for some years.

## HOUSING

	1965	1966	1967
Number of permanent houses erected	92	31	82
Number of permanent houses erected by local authority	12		10
Number of permanent houses erected by private enterprise	80	31	72
Number of temporary houses erected			
Number of families on housing list	314	350	222
Number of houses represented as unfit			4
Number of closing orders made			2
Number of demolition orders made			2
Number of houses in area represented as unfit and included in clearance areas			

## IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

Number of applications made for standard grants	9
Number of applications made for discretionary grants	

At the end of 1966, there were 37 houses remaining on the slum clearance list; since then three houses have been added. Of these 23 have been inspected in 1967.

The following is the position at present:—

Six houses will be made fit following undertakings or notices under Section 9 of the Housing Act 1957. Two have been removed from the list. Two are no longer used as housing accommodation. Fifteen have been inspected and found unfit; representation has been made in the case of four. The remaining fifteen will be inspected next year.

The Stockham Estate should be built in 1968, consisting of 150 houses, which will provide the houses for slum clearance and reduce the housing list. It is considered a matter of urgency to

rehouse people in condemned dwellings; in fact it has been necessary to rehouse two families before the Minister confirmed a Compulsory Purchase Order.

The Ormond Road Compulsory Order 1966 was opposed by two owner/occupiers. A Public Inquiry was held in April and the order was subsequently confirmed by the Minister.

In five cases the Council has seen fit to take no action on houses inspected and found unfit, on the grounds that it would be lacking in humanitarian principles to move elderly people.

One house in multi-occupation has received a great deal of attention during the year to bring it up to the standards required under the Housing Acts.

The Orchard Way Estate has had a preliminary survey in connection with estimating the cost of remedying defects and installing standard amenities.

There are no common lodging houses in the district.

## MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

The Haven Vale Caravan Site, Grove Street, is licensed under the "Caravan Sites Control and Development Act, 1960" as a site for 27 dwellings. It is inspected from time to time to see if the conditions on the site are satisfactory from the point of view of hygiene, sanitation and fire precautions.

This year it has received a great amount of attention, due to the low standard of some tenants. However by the end of the year the standard was improving and the owners plan a considerable amount of work in 1968.

One caravan was provided with a new licence during the year and two had applied for licences; one has been rejected, the other is expected to be granted.

## ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

Only informal action has been necessary to deal with the small number of complaints regarding smoke nuisances, mostly from incinerators, bonfires or rubbish burning. In two cases advice has been sought from the Council as to siting and height of chimneys; however in both cases the proposers have found technical loopholes to avoid their obligations. It is felt that some builders feel they can abandon all good principles and practice because the area is set in the midst of countryside.

## DISINFECTION AND DISINFESTATION

It has not been necessary to carry out disinfection of any premises this year, except that the annual fumigation of the flour mill was carried out in May, using hydrogen cyanide.

This year has been one in which the insect population thrived, possibly due to a mild winter. Several complaints arose regarding



fly nuisances, in one particular case we received the kind co-operation of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food who experimented with plastic strips impregnated with insecticides, to reduce a fly nuisance from chicken runs. This was successful.

Bee swarms were so numerous that it has been necessary to make a list of bee-keepers willing to remove swarms at short notice. The Council has decided that staff should not be asked to eliminate wasps nests owing to the hazards and the public are given names of persons who will carry out this work for a small charge.

A large amount of flea infestations were found on a new estate which appeared to have spread from house to house. No original infestation was ever found, but complete spraying of the whole of the houses was necessary before the infestations were brought under control. It was observed, that the fleas seem to multiply better in houses with “wall-to-wall” carpet.

Several cases of cluster flies were found during the early part of the year and the use of insecticide smoke generators provided satisfactory results.

RODENT CONTROL

No test baiting of sewer manholes was carried out during the year, as an exemption has been in force. It has not been found necessary to reconsider the position during the year as no evidence of manhole infestation came to light. During the year, in addition to the usual complaints of rats and mice, we have been requested to destroy grey squirrels, rabbits and voles.

	<i>Type of Property</i>	
	<i>Non-Agricultural</i>	<i>Agricultural</i>
1. Number of properties in district	2569	18
2. (a) Total number of properties (including nearby premises) inspected following notification	54	7
(b) Number infested by (i) Rats	49	6
(ii) Mice	7	1
3. (a) Total number of properties inspected for rats and/or mice for reasons other than notification	246	32
(b) Number infested by (i) Rats	187	14
(ii) Mice	3	2



MISCELLANEOUS WORK

Routine visits and inspections have been carried out in connection with the Petroleum and Explosives Acts.

A new register of hairdressers and barbers has been compiled.

Two cases of noise nuisance have been substantiated.

The Government Advisory Leaflets on Chemical Compounds used in Agriculture and Food Storage are kept up to date and available for members of the public to consult if necessary.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

Notification of accidents received — One.

Number of visits to premises by Inspectors — 248.

REGISTRATION AND GENERAL INSPECTIONS

<i>Class of Premises</i>	<i>Number of Premises Registered during the year</i>	<i>Number of registered premises at end of year</i>	<i>Number of registered premises receiving a general inspection during the year</i>
Offices	11	34	11
Retail Shops			
Warehouse	17	76	28
Wholesale Shops			
Warehouse	1	1	1
Catering Establishments open to the public, canteens	4	7	3
Fuel Storage depts.	—	—	—
Totals	33	118	43

## ANALYSIS OF CONTRAVENTIONS

Section	Number of Contraventions found	
4	Cleanliness	60
5	Overcrowding	7
6	Temperature	27
7	Ventilation	9
8	Lighting	18
9	Sanitary conveniences	37
10	Washing facilities	24
11	Supply of drinking water	6
12	Clothing accommodation	14
13	Sitting facilities	4
14	Seats (Sedentary Workers)	5
15	Eating facilities	3
16	Floors, passage and stairs	78
17	Fencing exposed parts machinery	17
18	Protection of young persons from dangerous machinery	2
19	Training of young persons working at machinery	1
23	Prohibition of heavy work	1
24	First aid	26
	Other matters	40
Total		379

## PERSONS EMPLOYED ON REGISTERED PREMISES IN 1967

Work place	Males	Females	Total
Offices	60	84	144
Retail Shops	108	302	410
Wholesale Shops and Warehouses	1	—	1
Catering Establishments	1	35	36
Totals	170	421	591

Two exemptions for periods were made by the Council during the year: —

1. From providing a W.C. for sales staff for six months.
2. From providing a wash basin for two years.

## NARRATIVE REPORT ON WORK UNDER "OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963"

### REGISTRATION

Of the 35 premises registered during the year, only one came to the office to enquire about the matter, in fact it has become routine to "chase" all new occupiers of premises from the moment they open. It is thought that the requirements of the Act are generally unknown.

### OPERATION AND GENERAL PROVISIONS OF THE ACT

Problems arise where the directive in L.A. Circular 7 Supplement No. 11 2(2) makes enforcement time consuming and cumbersome. This directs Local Authority Officers not to contact machinery manufacturers direct, but to contact the Factory Inspectorate who will contact the manufacturers.

The difficulties encountered in obtaining information on the guarding of a food slicing machine were numerous. It was felt that 10 minutes' conversation with the manufacturers representative and the shop-keeper at an early date could have solved the problem. In fact, the business dragged on for over two years and finally the shop-keeper took action, incurring possibly unnecessary expenditure, and the "good-will" built up between herself and our office was lost. The aim of the paragraph is appreciated but it is felt that a little discretion might be left to local authority officers in this matter.

Staff are somewhat perturbed by the advice given in L.A. Circular 7 (Supplement No. 4 (Revised)), the last sentence in paragraph 4. A new machine found in a butcher's shop did not have such an interlocked guard and the matter was taken up with the proprietors and subsequently when advice was sought from H.M. Factory Inspectorate we were advised that an interlocking device is not a legal requirement, however desirable. As a result our recommendations had to be withdrawn.

Further advice from the Ministry of Labour about a lighting code would be appreciated and also guidance on guillotine guarding (shearing edge types).

### ACCIDENTS

Only one accident was reported during the year. It is felt that the requirement regarding notification is generally unknown in offices and shops.



FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS

Routine inspections of factories have been carried out during the year; no alarming contraventions have been found. A new register of factories has been compiled with the help of the Factory Inspectorate.

FACTORIES ACT, 1961  
 PART ONE OF THE ACT

1. — INSPECTIONS

Premises	Number on Register	Number of Inspections	Number of Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	1	1	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	25	12	9	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	—	—	—	—
Total	26	13	9	—

2. — CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

- (a) Insufficient sanitary conveniences, 1 (remedied).
- (b) Unsuitable or defective sanitary conveniences, 8 (one by H.M. Inspector (all remedied) ).

PART VIII OF THE ACT

OUTWORK — Nil.

## 1967 SUMMARY OF VISITS BY PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

Atmospheric Pollution and Noise	...	...	...	...	21
Diseases of Animals	...	...	...	...	31
Disinfestation	...	...	...	...	85
Drainage, Sewage Disposal	...	...	...	...	181
Factories Workshops, Etc.	...	...	...	...	19
Food Inspection, complaints	...	...	...	...	78
Food Hygiene, Licensed premises	...	...	...	...	329
Housing	...	...	...	...	333
Infectious Disease	...	...	...	...	5
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	63
Mobile Food Shops, Vehicles, Stalls	...	...	...	...	61
Moveable Dwellings	...	...	...	...	75
Nuisances	...	...	...	...	51
Petroleum and Explosives	...	...	...	...	59
Public Conveniences	...	...	...	...	17
Refuse Collection and Disposal	...	...	...	...	20
Rodent Control	...	...	...	...	352
Sampling	...	...	...	...	252
Shops, Offices, Hairdressers	...	...	...	...	243
Swimming and Paddling Pools	...	...	...	...	69
Water	...	...	...	...	71
					<hr/>
Total number of visits	...	...	...	...	2,415
					<hr/>
Total number of complaints received	...	...	...	...	159
Total number of complaints substantiated	...	...	...	...	141
Number of defects or nuisances remedied	...	...	...	...	124
Number of Formal Notices served	...	...	...	...	8
Number of informal notices served	...	...	...	...	18

June 1968.

## WALLINGFORD RURAL DISTRICT

### REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

#### WATER SUPPLY

The bulk of the supply is provided by the same sources as in the previous year, i.e. Aston Tirrold, Cholsey, South Moreton, Upton and West Hagbourne, with additional water entering the area from Blewbury, Cleeve, and Woods Farm pumping stations.

Samples as listed below were collected during the year.

Aston Tirrold Works	45	Aston Tirrold Reservoir	1
Cholsey Works	47	Hagbourne Reservoir	2
South Moreton Works	31	Moulsford Reservoir	2
Upton Works	53	Taps & Distribution System	10
West Hagbourne Works	63		

In all therefore, 254 samples from the area were examined. Of the 122 raw waters, 26 showed some contamination due to the presence of organisms of the coliform group, while of the 132 samples taken after treatment, nine fell a little below the highest standard of bacterial purity.

The water is not considered to be plumbo-solvent and a test for overnight lead take-up on water from Didcot proved satisfactory.

Chemical results for the sources at present in use are given below, expressed in parts per million where appropriate. As may be seen, the natural fluoride content is low, and there is no significant amount in water entering the area from the other named sources.



<i>Source</i>	<i>Aston Tirrold</i>	<i>Cholsey</i>	<i>Upton</i>	<i>West Hagbourne</i>
Appearance	Clear and bright	Clear and bright	Clear and bright	Clear and bright
Colour (Hazen)	nil	nil	nil	nil
Odour	nil	nil	nil	faint chlorinous
Turbidity (Silica Scale)	nil	less than 0.5	nil	nil
Electrical				
Conductivity @ 20°C	420	680	630	600
pH	7.25	7.05	7.2	7.1
Free carbon dioxide	15	35	20	30
Ammoniacal nitrogen (N)	0.000	0.000	0.005	0.018
Albuminoid nitrogen (N)	0.010	0.015	0.005	0.008
Nitrite (N)	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent
Permanganate Value				
4 hrs. at 27°C	0.05	0.15	0.15	0.08
Iron	0.015	0.02	0.01	0.01
Other Metals	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent
Carbonate				
Hardness CaCO <sub>3</sub>	195	245	280	280
Non Carbonate				
Hardness CaCO <sub>3</sub>	15	145	0	55
Total Hardness CaCO <sub>3</sub>	210	390	280	335
Chloride (Cl)	15.5	27.0	19.5	14.7
Nitrate (N)	3.7	2.0	2.4	2.0
Sulphate (SO <sub>4</sub> )	15	124	46.5	57
Calcium (Ca)	82.5	150	108	130.5
Magnesium (Mg)	1	3.5	2.5	2
Sodium (Na)	19.5	13.5	52.5	17
Potassium (K)	1.5	6.0	3.1	3.9
Silica (SiO <sub>2</sub> )	18	20	22	23
Phosphate (PO <sub>4</sub> )	0.02	less than 0.02	0.02	0.05
Natural Fluoride (F)	0.12	less than 0.1	0.15	less than 0.1
Total Dissolved Solids	250	460	380	410

## SLAUGHTERHOUSES

There is one licensed slaughterhouse in the district. The particulars are as follows: —

Location	Owner
5 Hagbourne Road, Didcot	Messrs. H. Andrews and Sons, 5 Hagbourne Road, Didcot

Details of meat inspection carried out during the year are shown in the following table

# MEAT INSPECTION — 1967

	Cows	Steers	Heifers	Calves	Pigs	Sheep	Lambs
January	—	6	15	8	47	29	—
February	—	6	7	8	55	17	4
March	—	5	6	7	62	16	9
April	—	6	10	5	51	4	23
May	—	11	4	6	54	—	27
June	—	8	4	5	36	1	24
July	—	4	8	5	37	1	25
August	—	3	8	4	46	18	6
September	—	3	10	7	49	21	4
October	—	10	6	6	43	19	1
November	—	5	6	6	60	18	—
December	—	6	2	6	67	21	—

Total	—	73	86	73	607	165	123
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## *Tuberculosis*

Whole carcasses	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Part carcasses/ organs	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
Percentage	—	—	—	—	0.32	—	—

## *Cysticercosis*

<i>Bovis</i>	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whole carcasses	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Part carcasses/ organs	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Percentage	—	0.62	—	—	—	—	—

## *Diseases other than C. Bovis and Tuberculosis*

Whole carcasses	—	—	1	—	1	—	—
Part carcasses/ organs	—	25	—	31	—	—	—
Percentage	—	15.72	1.37	5.10	0.60	—	—

## MEAT AND OFFAL CONDEMNED AS UNFIT

Meat	126 lb.
Offal	297 lb.
	<hr/>
	423 lb.
	<hr/>

## SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

No drainage or sewage disposal schemes have been carried out during the past year.

All the Council's sewage disposal works, with the exception of Didcot, are producing very satisfactory effluents.

The Council are at present advertising for staff to design and supervise the construction of a new disposal works for Didcot, and it is hoped that construction would begin in about two years' time.

## REFUSE AND REFUSE DISPOSAL

In December, 1967, a Seerdrum Pulverising installation was commissioned at the Pearith Pit.

This machine, by pulverising the majority of the refuse, considerably lengthens the life of the present tip and will enable certain areas of land to be raised and brought back rapidly for agricultural use.

## RODENT CONTROL

### SUMMARY OF WORK CARRIED OUT IN 1967

	Non-Agricultural	Agricultural
No. of properties in district	7,500	283
No. of inspections	410	378
No. of treatments — (Rats)	322	63
(Mice)	41	1

## FOOD AND DRUGS ADMINISTRATION

### MILK

All milk retailed in the district is designated. There are twenty-three registered distributors. Thirty samples of milk were taken from schools in the area during the year, all of which satisfied the Methylene Blue and Phosphatase tests. Five samples of milk were examined for *Brucella Abortus* — all samples were negative.

### ICE CREAM

There are 2 premises in the district registered for the manufacture and sale of ice cream. There are also 66 premises registered for the storage and sale of ice cream.

One sample of ice cream was taken during the year and reported as satisfactory (Grade I).



## GENERAL

The undermentioned complaints relating to food offered for sale were dealt with during the year: —

1. Foreign body in tin of casserole steak — letter to retailer, wholesaler and Australian canners. No further action.
2. Mould on skinless sausages — letter of warning to retailer.
3. Sale of mouldy bread — complaint not substantiated.
4. Eggs supplied by local distributors — possible contamination by salmonella typhi-murium — investigations inconclusive.
5. Mould on cheeseburgers — letter of warning to retailer.
6. Tin of corned beef — defective tinning — letter of explanation to complainant.
7. Mouldy bread — no further action in view of delay between date of purchase and date of receipt of complaint.
8. Mouldy pork pies — letter of warning to retailer.
9. Mould on Butterscotch Cake — letter to retailer about stock rotation.
10. Blackspot in a sample of butter — letter of explanation from producer — no further action.
11. Fitness for consumption of a sample of butter — complaint not substantiated.

## VOLUNTARY SURRENDER OF FOODS UNFIT FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION

<i>Canned Food</i>	<i>lbs.</i>
1,570 cans Fruit and Vegetables	5,653
128 cans Meat	400
16 cans Fish	7
48 cans Milk	32
<i>Fresh Food</i>	
Dried Fruit	11,736
Frozen Fruit	1,650
Dried Vegetables	5,154
Fresh and Frozen Meat	25
<i>Frozen Foods</i>	
171 packets Fish	120
18 „ Milk Products	7
7 „ Fruit Juice	2
6 „ Chicken	28
202 „ Meat	94
173 „ Vegetables	100
Total weight	<hr/> 25,008 lbs. <hr/>

# STATISTICS — FOOD HYGIENE (GENERAL) REGULATIONS, 1960

## FOOD PREMISES IN THE DISTRICT

Grocers	40
Confectioners	16
Hotels	6
Public Houses	25
Food factories and warehouses	10
Butchers	15
Greengrocers	3
Bakeries	3
Fish shops (wet and fried)	4
Cafes	5

## PREMISES REGISTERED UNDER SECTION 16 OF FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955

Manufacture of ice cream	2
Storage and sale of ice cream	66
Fish frying	3
Sausage making	10
Bakehouses	3
Manufacture of meat pies	1

## THE LIQUID EGG (PASTEURISATION) REGULATIONS, 1963

There are no egg pasteurisation plants in the district.

## POULTRY INSPECTION

Number of poultry processing premises	2
Number of visits	22
Total number of birds processed	159,484
Types of birds processed	Capons, fowls and turkeys
Percentage of birds rejected as unfit	2.5%
Weight of poultry condemned as unfit for human consumption	2,508 lb.

*General Comments.* Little progress has been made on this work during the year because of staff shortage.

## NOTICES SERVED DURING 1967

	<i>Informal</i>	<i>Statutory</i>
General Defects	2	—
Drainage	3	2
Dustbins	2	1
Overgrown Ditches	1	—
Food Hygiene	2	—
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises	4	—

## ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

There were two complaints during 1967. One was an isolated incident concerning a bonfire in a back garden. Representations were made to the householder responsible and there was no recurrence. The second complaint related to nuisance from the chimney flue of Samor Pure Foods Ltd. This was traced to a fault in the oil-fired boiler which was rectified without delay.

## OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

A copy of Tables A, B and C of the Annual Report to the Ministry of Labour and National Service is given here:—

TABLE A — REGISTRATIONS AND GENERAL INSPECTIONS

Class of Premises	Number of premises newly registered during the year	Total number of registered premises at end of year	Number of registered premises receiving one or more general inspections during the year
Offices	2	33	—
Retail Shops	1	91	3
Wholesale Shops, Warehouses	—	3	—
Catering establishments open to the public, canteens	—	7	1
Fuel storage depots	—	2	—
Totals	3	136	4

TABLE B — NUMBER OF VISITS OF ALL KINDS (INCLUDING GENERAL INSPECTIONS) TO REGISTERED PREMISES — 27

TABLE C — ANALYSIS BY WORKPLACE OF PERSONS EMPLOYED IN REGISTERED PREMISES AT END OF YEAR

<i>Class of workplace</i>	<i>No. of persons employed</i>
Offices	197
Retail Shops	452
Wholesale Departments, Warehouses	24
Caterings Establishments open to the public	47
Canteens	—
Fuel Storage Depots	3
Total	723
Total Males	250
Total Females	473



## SWIMMING BATHS

The undermentioned swimming baths are situated within the district:

- Edmonds Park Swimming Pool, Didcot (Public)
- Swimming Bath, Didcot Girls' Grammar School (Private)
- Swimming Bath, Cranford House School, Moulsoford (Private)
- Swimming Bath, Shillingford Bridge Hotel, Nr. Wallingford (Public)

No samples of swimming bath water were taken during 1967, but weekly testing of the chlorine content and pH values were carried out throughout the season.

## HOUSING

During 1967 four houses were represented as unfit for human habitation.

The following building programme was completed by the Council during 1967:

DIDCOT — 20 houses for sale, Barnes Road/Mowbray Road;  
32 maisonettes, Barnes Close.

LONG WITTENHAM — 12 maisonettes (2 b/r).

The undermentioned development was commenced during 1967:  
DIDCOT — 11 bungalows (2 b/r).

The undermentioned development will be commenced in 1968:  
CHOLSEY — 32 maisonettes (2 b/r).

The number of applicants on the Council's Housing List at the end of 1967 was 577.

## CARAVANS

The undermentioned licensed caravan sites are operated in the Council's district:

SHILLINGFORD HILL CARAVAN SITE, NR. WALLINGFORD

120 permanent sites. 40 holiday sites. Satisfactory.

BLAGRAVE FARM SITE, DIDCOT

28 permanent sites. Satisfactory.

THREE POPLARS SITE, LONG WITTENHAM

32 permanent sites. No caravans on the site at the present time.

HAGBOURNE ROAD SITE, DIDCOT

100 permanent sites. Now satisfactory.

POST OFFICE SITE, CHOLSEY

12 permanent sites. Satisfactory.

BARLEY MOW SITE, LONG WITTENHAM

6 permanent sites. 40 holiday sites. Satisfactory.

DIDCOT POWER STATION

100 temporary sites. Satisfactory.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948

During 1967 there were no persons buried by the Local Authority under the provisions of Section 50 of the above Act.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

PART I OF THE ACT

1. INSPECTIONS

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of Inspections (3)	Number of Written Notices (4)	Occupiers Prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	—	—	—	—
(ii) Factories not in- cluded in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	52	3	1	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is en- forced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	—	—	—	—
Total	52	3	1	—

2. CASES in which defects were found:

Sanitary convenience unusable or defective (reported by H.M. Inspector): 1 (Remedied).

PART VIII OF THE ACT

Outwork — No. of workers required by Section 133(1)(c):  
Making, etc., of wearing apparel: 60.

March 1968.

# WANTAGE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

## REPORT OF THE SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

### FOOD AND DRUGS ADMINISTRATION

#### MILK

Licences under the Milk (Special Designations) Regulations issued by the County Council and in force during the year were as follows:

Pasteuriser	...	...	...	...	1
Dealers (pre-packed)	...	...	...	...	9

Of these dealers, 4 were selling pasteurised milk in bottles or waxed cartons, 3 sterilized milk, 6 ultra heat treated milk in 'tetra-paks'. As far as is known no untreated milk was produced or sold in the district during the year although one producer's licence was still valid. Consequently no samples were examined for *Brucella abortus*.

Once again sampling was restricted to school milk and, as for some years the standards laid down by Regulations have been consistently met, only one sample from each of the following suppliers was taken:

Oxford Co-operative Society Ltd.  
Swindon Co-operative Society Ltd.  
H. A. Job Ltd., Didcot  
County Dairies (Oxford) Ltd.

Each sample was reported as having satisfied both methylene blue and phosphatase tests.

Only two complaints concerning milk were received during the year. One related to dirt in a bottle of milk but the amount was very small and a warning letter was sent to the dairy firm concerned. In the other instance the complainant alleged that his milk tasted strongly of chlorine and the remains were sent to the Public Analyst together with two further unopened bottles from the same batch. No trace of any chlorine could be found and in the absence of complaints from any other quarter no further action was taken.

#### MILK PRODUCTS

The Licensed H.T.S.T. plant at Grove continued to be used exclusively for milk products which included single and double cream, yoghurt and cottage cheese. The production of yoghurt increased considerably to the point where, at the end of the year, proposals were put forward to provide a new production unit. When the work is completed, probably in 1968, the existing yoghurt



plant will be used for cream production thus obviating the need for running off into churns for cooling after pasteurisation and subsequent transfer manually into filling machines.

The following samples were taken :

Cream	...	...	...	...	31
Yoghurt	...	...	...	...	4
Cottage Cheese	...	...	...	...	1

Three of the cream samples were reported to contain small numbers of coliform organisms which indicated the possibility of either poor handling techniques after pasteurisation or airborne contamination. The matter was taken up with the firm and later samples all proved satisfactory.

Co-operation with the dairy management continued at a high level and the new laboratory, promised in 1966, was duly opened and put into full use during the year. In all 19 visits were made to the dairy during the year.

#### FOOD PREMISES

The following food premises were in use during the year:

	No. of Premises	Food Hygiene Regulations		
		Complying with Reg. 16	Reg. 19 applicable	Complying with Reg. 19
School meals kitchens (where main meals are prepared)	10	10	10	10
Staff canteens (U.K.A.E.A., S.R.C. A.R.C. canteens and U.K.A.E.A. hostels)	8	8	8	8
Cafes and tea rooms	5	5	5	5
Public Houses (some serving main meals but most dispensing snacks only)	53	52	53	53
Grocers (including vil- lage general stores)	51	47	44	44
Butchers	7	6	7	7
Greengrocers	1	1	1	1
Confectioners	6	6	—	—
Off Licences	2	2	—	—
Bakehouses	4	3	4	4
Totals	147	140	132	132

The general standard of food hygiene has been maintained at a fairly high level throughout the district although one or two cases of unsatisfactory practices have been brought to light, namely, dogs in shops, insufficient stock rotation, misuse of deep freeze cabinets and exposure of open food. Improvements have always been achieved without the need for legal proceedings.

Leaflets concerning food hygiene were distributed during the year as a means of reminding food handlers of their responsibilities.

Also during the year certain premises were improved on advice from the Public Health Department. These were as follows:

Cafe	...	...	Complete re-organisation and refitting
Grocers	...	...	Provision of new toilet and washing facilities (2)
			Redecoration (3)
			New floor (2)

In the course of the year one butchery business in Harwell closed down and another at Hampstead Norris continued in use only as a depot for mobile shops. A third butchery business was being provided with new premises which should become operational during 1968.

A survey of public houses was commenced and by the end of the year approximately half the premises had been inspected. In each case particular attention was paid to sanitary accommodation for customers, cellars and glass washing facilities. Standards generally were found to be good apart from certain redecoration items. It was necessary in one instance, however, to serve an informal notice on a brewery for considerable improvement.

The total number of visits paid to all types of food premises was 189.

#### MOBILE TRADERS AND FRUIT STALLS

On 1st January, 1967, the Food Hygiene (Markets, Stalls and Delivery Vehicles) Regulations, 1966, came into force giving Local Authorities greater control over itinerant traders and markets. As far as could be ascertained, only four mobile shops were operating from premises within the Wantage Rural District, namely two ice cream vendors, a greengrocer and a butchery business. These were found to be satisfactory. A number of mobile traders from other districts were operating in the district and reference was made to the Public Health Departments concerned in any cases of infringement of the regulations. Regular trading appeared to be carried on in four cases and the vendors were duly registered as hawkers under the Berkshire County Council Act. Advice was also given to several tradesmen on the standards required in delivery vehicles.

Two market stalls were found to be used during the year and each was again well maintained. One of these, used more regularly



than the other, was provided with a patent handwashing unit in accordance with regulations.

ICE CREAM

Three new registrations under the Food and Drugs Act were made during the year, two in respect of the mobile ice cream vendors referred to above. The total number of registered premises at the end of the year was 57. Again sampling was concentrated on the Tonibell Depot at Wantage in co-operation with the Urban District Council, and in all 30 samples were taken the results being as follows:

Grade I	...	...	...	...	23
Grade II	...	...	...	...	3
Grade III	...	...	...	...	2
Grade IV	...	...	...	...	2

Vans giving the lower grade results were resampled until Grade I was achieved and on every visit inspections of vehicles were made with satisfactory results in most cases.

WATERCRESS

Marketing of the watercress produced at Letcombe Bassett was recommenced during 1967 but each batch was treated by means of a hypochlorite dip before despatch. One sample each of treated and untreated cress was taken and the results again indicated the value of the sterilisation process in reducing the numbers of coliform organisms to negligible proportions. Four samples of untreated cress were also taken from another bed in the same vicinity, but under different ownership, and the results were far from satisfactory. No marketing took place but the owner was strongly advised to employ the same sterilisation technique if the cress was at any time sold to the general public. The assistance of the Wantage Research Laboratory in providing polythene sampling bags, sterilised by gamma irradiation, is gratefully acknowledged.

In addition to the cress samples referred to above, eleven samples of cress bed water were taken and the results indicated that although the two springs which feed the beds were of very high bacteriological quality, considerable contamination, probably by birds and small animals, had built up before the lowest outfall. Advice was given on methods of reducing such contamination.

FOOD INSPECTION

The following food was voluntarily surrendered by food traders in exchange for condemnation certificates:

- 9 cwt. 82 lb. fresh meat at retail shops\*
- 84 lb. bacon\*
- 60 lb. canned meats (Hermitage Cold Store)
- 1 cwt. 22 lb. frozen foods\*

\*all due to refrigeration breakdowns



Only two complaints from consumers were received during the year and these were as follows:

1. Mould in sausage rolls—kept too long by complainant for legal proceedings to be instituted. Verbal warning to retailer regarding stock rotation and frequency of deliveries from wholesaler.
2. Decomposing scotch eggs — purchased by a number of Letcombe Regis residents from a restaurant in Winchester on return from a day's outing. Referred to the Winchester Public Health Department for further action. Later report received that, in view of the previous good record of the firm, the matter was dealt with by means of a warning letter.

#### FOOD POISONING AND INFECTIOUS DISEASES

One case of dysentery and one of Salmonella food poisoning were investigated during the year and six faecal specimens were taken for bacteriological examination.

#### POULTRY PROCESSING

No poultry processing premises were in operation in the district.

#### OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT 1963

The following is a summary of the Annual Report made to the Minister of Labour for the year ending 31st December, 1967:

Class of Premises	No. registered during year	No. registered at end of year	General Inspections	Persons employed
Offices	NIL	10	6	40
Retail shops	3	49	36	146
Catering establishments open to the public	1	8	4	31
Fuel storage depots	1	2	1	6
Totals	5	69	47	223

Male employees — 68      Female employees — 155

Total number of visits to registered premises of all kinds — 107.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT

All registered premises are now subject to routine inspections, the frequency of which depends upon conditions found.

All the major requirements of the Act have now been met and the inspectors' attention is at present directed towards maintaining and securing improvements upon the legal minimum standards.

The major difficulty is still the lack of knowledge of the Act on the part of business people. Not once has a form OSR 1 been received on change of ownership of a business or on the employment of staff for the first time, without some prompting from this department.

## CONTRAVENTIONS

Of the 30 outstanding contraventions at the end of 1966 only seven remained to be dealt with at the end of 1967 and three of these relate to one shop which is shortly to be replaced by an entirely new building.

## INFORMAL NOTICES COMPLIED

Cleanliness of walls and floors — 2

Overcrowding (numerical standard) — 1 (office closed)

Lack of thermometers — 7

Lighting — 1

Sanitary conveniences: Redecoration — 3

Ventilation — 1

Lighting — 1

Washing facilities: Wash basins — 3

Hot water — 2

Lack of first aid equipment — 2

## ACCIDENTS

No accidents were reported during the year but again it is doubtful whether the majority of employers are aware of their obligation to report these to the Local Authority. Reminders are, however, given whenever routine inspections are made.

## SLAUGHTERHOUSES

Slaughtering of animals for human consumption was again restricted to one place, namely, the Agricultural Research Council's Field Station at Compton. Regular visits for meat inspection purposes continued and the standard of hygiene was maintained at a high level. A number of improvements was carried out with the help and advice of the Divisional Veterinary Officer of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and these included the installation of a new incinerator; a separate bay for condemned meat; new meat preparation surfaces; a new scalding tank for pigs and a sterilising unit for knives. All wooden surfaces, except for a chopping block, were removed and replaced with impervious materials and, in accordance with new regulations, the use of wiping cloths was discontinued in favour of high pressure sprays and paper towels.

The knackers yard at East Challow ceased to function during 1967.



## CARCASES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED IN WHOLE OR IN PART

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	27	83	55	233	260
Number inspected	27	83	55	233	260
<i>All diseases except tuberculosis and cysticercosis</i>					
Whole carcasses condemned	NIL	3	NIL	2	7
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	NIL	19	NIL	NIL	43

There were no cases of tuberculosis or cysticercosis.

Total weight of meat and offal condemned — 1 ton 8 cwt.

Income from meat inspection charges — £29 10s. 6d.

## REFUSE COLLECTION

Approximately 6,750 tons of refuse were collected and disposed of on the Council's refuse tips at Farnborough, Hampstead Norris and Stanford-in-the-Vale during the year. With the termination of our tipping facilities at Pearith refuse tip, under the control of Wallingford R.D.C., household refuse from the parishes of Harwell, Upton and Blewbury had to be transported to the tip at Hampstead Norris, thus adding to the non-productive travelling time every week. Every effort was made to find a more suitable arrangement but this had not been achieved by the end of the year.

Negotiations with the owners for the purchase of a refuse disposal site near the village of Childrey were, unfortunately, not successful. The approach had been made following the report of consultants engaged by the Council to work-study the service and make recommendations for its improvement. The failure to obtain a central disposal point made it imperative that larger vehicles should be substituted for the existing 25 cubic yard machines and accordingly, it was decided that a 50 cubic yard Pakamatic should replace our oldest machine in January 1969.

Arrangements for the collection of refuse over Bank Holiday periods were amended during the year. Previously, paper sacks had been issued, on request, to householders who were affected by non-collection but this arrangement gave rise to numerous complaints. Commencing with the Christmas holiday, therefore, the Council decided, with the co-operation of the refuse collectors, to amend the collection itinerary over the period so that a weekly collection could be maintained throughout the district.



During the year, the Civic Amenities Act came into force and this placed an obligation on the Council to provide a service for the removal of old cars and a disposal point which could be used by the public for the dumping of unwanted bulky articles. Eight old cars were removed at a total cost of £12 and the Council's refuse tip at Hampstead Norris was made available to residents during tipping hours and at weekends, subject to prior arrangement with the Department.

The removal of litter and special collections of bulky articles unsuitable for removal at the normal time of collection continued throughout the year and was probably the reason for the little use made by residents of the facilities at Hampstead Norris tip.

Trade contracts amounting to £165 10s. 0d. were negotiated during the year and shopkeepers appeared to be well satisfied with the service.

The usual trend towards lighter and more bulky refuse continued as before and labour difficulties during sickness and holidays were again experienced. The remarks made in previous annual reports regarding the increasing average age of the collectors and the effect upon their lifting capacity were relevant again during the period under review.

#### EQUIPMENT

- 4 Shelvoke & Drewry Fore and Aft Freighters
- 1 Dennis 10 Cubic Yard Side Loader
- 1 Brayloader 430
- 1 Bedford 800 van

#### EMPLOYEES

- 1 Working Foreman/Fitter
- 5 Driver /Loaders
- 4 Loaders

#### SEPTIC TANK EMPTYING SERVICE

This service continued quite successfully during the year. Following the Council's decision to give one free emptying in every eighteen months, many householders took advantage of this and one machine and driver employed on the service were kept fully occupied.

A new 800 gallon cesspool emptying vehicle was purchased during the year to replace the old machine and the Engineer's Department obtained a trailer-exhauster to deal with work at sewage disposal plants.

The scale of charges, which had operated unaltered since the introduction of the service in 1957, was amended from 1st October, 1967 to allow for increased costs and resulted in a slightly higher revenue despite the number of tanks emptied for which no charge was made.

Work carried out during the year:

	No. of tanks emptied	No. of loads
COUNCIL		
Main sewerage tanks	16	33
Small works (Serving Council Houses only)	17	37
Septic tanks	30	74
PRIVATE TANKS		
Free	244	328
Chargeable	346	538
Total	653	1010

Income from Private Septic Tanks — £780 7s. 6d.

## WATER SUPPLY

The Thames Valley Water Board are the statutory water undertakers for the district and their supplies are drawn from boreholes at Brightwalton, Blewbury, Childrey, West Hendred and Compton. These supplies were satisfactory in both quantity and quality and were chlorinated before distribution. Samples of raw water taken by the Board were reported to be satisfactory both chemically and bacteriologically. The water was moderately hard and not plumbo-solvent. In no case did the fluoride content exceed .25 p.p.m.

The laying of the supply from Compton to the Didcot Power Station was completed during the year and 184 individual connections were made through the district. One formal notice was served requiring a water supply to be provided inside the house.

Four samples of mains water were taken by the Public Health Department and each was reported satisfactory.

As in previous years the main emphasis was placed on sampling water from private, mainly unchlorinated, supplies. A total of 61 samples were, in fact, taken from 22 different sources and the results were as follows:

- 27 Highly satisfactory
- 14 Acceptable for rural supplies
- 20 Unsatisfactory

The 20 unsatisfactory results related to 11 different supplies and advice was given in each case to the owners on methods of securing improvements in bacteriological quality. In one instance it was recommended that use of a well for domestic purposes be discontinued as an alternative supply was available. In another the poor results led to the discovery that the chlorinating apparatus was out of order. In the remaining nine cases, cleansing and sterilisation were recommended and, of these, six gave satisfactory



results before the end of the year. It is significant that supplies giving good results in the early part of the year often give cause for concern by the autumn when water tables are usually low. In my opinion some form of grant should be introduced to assist owners in the installation of chlorinating plants in cases where mains water is unavailable.

## SWIMMING POOLS

Three more beginners' pools of the prefabricated type were installed during the year at the Ardington, Blewbury and East Challow Primary Schools. These additions brought the total number of school swimming pools to eight. Each pool was visited during the summer term and the member of the staff responsible was interviewed. Advice was given where required and it was pleasing to note that in every case careful attention was given to the bacteriological quality of the water. Chlorine residuals and pH values were measured and six samples of water were taken for bacteriological examination. Results were satisfactory.

Once again the advantages of achieving breakpoint conditions of chlorination were emphasised and much useful literature on the care of small pools was collected and made available to teachers on request.

During the year evidence was published to the effect that ortho-tolidine, the reagent commonly used in determining chlorine residuals was carcinogenic, and its use was discontinued in favour of the D.P.D. tablet method.

## SEWERAGE

The Engineer and Surveyor reported as follows:

### HERMITAGE SEWERAGE

This scheme has been submitted in outline by the Newbury R.D.C. to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government but has not yet been finalised. Trouble has been experienced in the Briants Piece area of Hermitage with flooding of septic tanks and some form of surface water drainage will have to be undertaken.

### WEST HENDRED

A scheme for the sewerage of this village and new works at East Hendred will be submitted to the Ministry early in 1968.

### EAST AND WEST HANNEY

Some trouble has been experienced at East and West Hanney owing to the flooding of the sewers during the heavy rainfall. A scheme for additional pumping plant is being prepared but this can only be implemented after the enlargement of the joint works at Bradfield, Grove has been completed as the existing works cannot take the additional load.



# EFFLUENT

Two series of effluent samples were taken from the outfall drain at Elms Farm, Grove and results were satisfactory.

Parish	Area in Acres	Estimated population 31.12.67	Dwellings occupied 31.12.67		Total
			Private	Council	
Aldworth	1866	203	53	16	69
Ardington	2693	370	123	—	123
Beedon	2096	410	111	30	141
Blewbury	4246	1388	419	63	482†
Brightwalton	2054	291	95	15	110
Catmore	710	29	11	—	11
Chaddleworth	3400	446	113	45	158
Challow, East	1657	952	208	90	298
Challow, West	1070	176	45	15	60
Childrey	2929	474	115	41	156
Chilton	1448	819	240	41	281
Compton	3803	1335	308	105	413
Denchworth	1041	180	52	10	62
Farnborough	1886	86	33	4	37
Fawley	2190	149	45	5	50
Goosey	968	141	38	10	48
Grove	2513	3913	1067	168	1235†
Hampstead Norris	4490	696	199	64	263
Hanney, East	2200	718	183	44	227
Hanney, West	1333	511	131	27	158
Harwell	2503	2451	629	79	708†
Hendred, East	3198	1229	348	91	439†
Hendred, West	2002	329	84	27	111
Hermitage	1471	866	286	7	293
Ilsley, East	3017	443	101	40	141
Ilsley, West	3037	316	92	8	100
Letcombe Bassett	1631	199	47	15	62
Letcombe Regis	2155	509	142	41	183
Lockinge	3763	235	81	—	81
Peasemore	2049	214	65	12	77
Sparsholt	3329	298	75	29	104
Upton	1413	374	95	24	119
Totals	74161	20750	5634	1166	6800

† These figures include caravans and occupants.

WATER SUPPLIES					
Sewerage	Mains Stand Pipes	Estate Supply Sources	Dwellings	Private Supply Sources	Dwellings
*	2	—	—	2	4
Yes	—	2	123	—	—
*	3	—	—	1	1
Yes	1	—	—	—	—
*	1	—	—	4	7
—	—	1	10	1	1
Yes—Part	7	—	—	—	3
Yes	—	—	—	—	—
Yes	—	—	—	—	—
Yes	—	—	—	—	—
Yes	—	—	—	2	2
Yes	—	3	20	6	6
*	5	—	—	1	1
—	—	—	—	—	—
*	—	1	16	—	—
*	—	—	—	1	3
Yes	—	—	—	—	—
Yes	2	3	36	3	5
Yes	4	—	—	—	—
Yes	2	—	—	—	—
Yes	2	—	—	—	—
Yes	5	—	—	5	14
*	3	2	8	—	—
*	2	1	9	—	—
Yes	—	1	8	1	4
Yes	9	1	7	—	—
*	2	—	—	—	—
Yes	6	—	—	3	4
Yes	—	1	81	—	—
*	4	—	—	3	5
*	—	—	—	—	—
Yes	4	—	—	—	—
Totals	64	16	318	33	60

These figures were compiled from best available information and cannot be regarded as completely accurate.

\* Small disposal works in existence for Council houses only.

## ANIMAL BOARDING ESTABLISHMENTS

Licences in respect of the four boarding kennels at Blewbury, Brightwalton, Harwell and East Hendred were renewed for a further twelve months and an inspection of each was carried out jointly with the local R.S.P.C.A. Inspector. Conditions were found to be satisfactory.

## NOISE

Two complaints of industrial noise were received during the year, each of which required accurate measurement before it could be established whether or not nuisances existed. Both cases were dealt with informally and every assistance was given by the firms concerned.

One case involved noise from band and circular saws and this was dealt with by ensuring that doors and windows on the near side of the factory were kept closed during sawing operations.

The other case concerned noise from cranes under test and the services of an expert from the Oxford College of Technology were enlisted by the firm to find a solution to the problem. Experiments proved that a series of silencers and baffles could reduce noise levels to acceptable limits but in practice these restricted the manoeuvrability of the cranes. Eventually a solution was found by laying new reinforced test pads at the rear of the factory where the walls provided a very effective noise reducing baffle.

A third complaint was received concerning a braying donkey but due to marked lack of co-operation on the part of the offending animal it was not possible to establish whether or not the noise was sufficient to cause a nuisance!

## RODENT AND INSECT CONTROL

The following is a summary of the Annual Report submitted to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food: —

	<i>Type of property</i>	
	<i>Non-agricultural</i>	<i>Agricultural</i>
Total number of properties (including nearby premises) inspected following notification ... ..	207	—
Number infested by (a) Rats ...	190	—
(b) Mice ...	13	—
Total number of properties inspected for rats and/or mice for reasons other than notification ... ..	1398	50*
Number infested by (a) Rats ...	318	39
(b) Mice ...	Nil	12

\* Includes 36 farms under contract. Value of contracts £787 10s. 0d.



No. 5 Warfarin continued to be the main weapon against rats and mice but on one occasion it was necessary to use an acute poison, zinc phosphide, to clear a refuse tip. This tip is situated well away from dwellings and farm livestock and careful control was maintained.

Pest control at U.K.A.E.A., establishments continued on a contract basis and income from this source totalled £689 6s. 7d.

## CARAVANS

### PERMANENT SITES

Charles Simpson (Caravans) Ltd., Westfield Close and The Willows, Grove (90 caravans).

The policy of the firm is now to reduce the number of vans without individual toilets and to encourage the siting of self-contained mobile homes. At the end of the year there were only approximately 6 vans on the Westfield Close site without modern amenities.

The Chiltern Caravan Co., The Barrow, Harwell (35 caravans).

Further improvements were carried out, the most notable being the surfacing of the car park which was welcomed by car owners.

Mr. R. W. Pask, Ladycroft, Blewbury (60 caravans).

Further work was carried out to roads and surface water drainage during the year but complete resurfacing had still not been carried out by the end of the year.

Mr. H. S. Clargo, Bidhu, Blewbury (1 caravan).

Excellent individual site.

Mrs. B. A. Bosley, Grove Wick Farm, Grove (1 caravan).

New mobile home now fully installed with all modern amenities.

Miss H. M. I. Balcombe, Quab Hill Farm, Featherbed Lane, East Hendred (1 caravan).

Permanent licence for 1 mobile home now granted. All modern amenities.

### TEMPORARY SITES

Six licences in the parishes of Grove, Harwell, Chilton, Childrey, Compton and Hermitage were still in force at the end of the year.

Sites to which the exemption clauses of the Act applied were set up at Harwell and Compton to provide accommodation for men working on water undertakings and the Harwell site was particularly well maintained even to the extent of having a fully equipped mobile sanitary block. The Council's septic tank emptying vehicle made regular calls to dispose of the resulting effluent. Most of the caravans used by Pearce and Barker employees at Grove were removed as building operations drew to a close for the time being.

## GYPSIES

A most serious situation concerning gypsies and Irish tinkers developed on Grove airfield in the early part of the year. A small number of families had been using the land for winter quarters, but as no serious complaints were received steps to secure their removal were not immediately taken although the Ministry of Defence were reminded of their responsibility in the matter. Then, in February a massive influx of itinerants occurred and within hours the Council and Police were swamped with complaints from residents and shopkeepers concerning noise, foul language, stealing and threatening behaviour. The Ministry of Defence were immediately notified and asked to take urgent measures to clear the airfield and this was in fact carried out by R.A.F. Police one week after the commencement of the trouble but not before extreme unrest had developed throughout the village.

At the same time the Council decided to provide a small site in East Challow for the caravans occupied by the Rusher family, who have a genuine connection with the Wantage area. This site had existing concrete areas suitable for caravan standings and after some difficulties had been overcome a water supply was laid on. No further amenities were provided, partly because the land was only rented and partly because it was hoped that after some rehabilitation the occupants could be placed in permanent dwellings. The 4 vans were still on site at the end of the year and the children were attending school. It is hoped that rehousing of two sections of the family will become possible during 1968.

135 visits to caravan sites of all kinds were made during the year.

## HOUSING

218 dwellings were inspected during the year following complaints or in connection with improvement grant applications and 387 inspections were made in all.

Figures for grants were as follows: —

Approved: Discretionary — 4 tenanted; 7 owner/occupied.  
Standard — 3 tenanted; 12 owner/occupied.

Completed: Discretionary — 3 tenanted; 7 owner/occupied.  
Standard — 11 tenanted; 8 owner/occupied.  
Total — 29.

In 25 of the above cases repairs were carried out concurrently with improvements but in addition 11 informal Housing Act and Public Health Act notices were served. Formal notices were served in respect of 5 houses belonging to British Rail at West Challow but at the end of the year arrangements were well in hand for the Council to take over the properties and estimates for repair works



were being obtained. Fourteen houses were repaired during the year as a result of the above notices and similar ones served the previous year.

#### COMPULSORY IMPROVEMENT

As a result of earlier compulsory improvement action purchase notices were received in respect of two dwellings in the parish of Beedon. These dwellings formed part of a terrace of 4 and agreement was reached during the year that all 4 should be taken over by the Council and modernised.

Purchase notices were also received in respect of the six dwellings contained in the Chaddleworth Improvement area and at the end of the year plans were being prepared for modernisation.

Work required by an Immediate Notice served in respect of a dwelling in West Ilsley was satisfactorily completed during the year.

In addition a further 5 houses at West Ilsley were purchased by the Council for improvement and re-letting.

#### UNFIT HOUSES

Reported as unfit: 35.

Demolition Orders made: 5.

Closing Orders made: 3.

Formal undertakings accepted: 16.

Demolished: 10.

Reconditioned: 3.

#### SELECTION OF TENANTS FOR COUNCIL ACCOMMODATION

New dwellings were completed as follows:—

Compton — 6 x 3 B.R. houses.

6 x 2 B.R. flats.

Childrey — 3 x 2 B.R. O.P. Bungalows.

2 x 1 B.R. O.P. Bungalows.

Thirty-seven applicants were rehoused (including 11 from unfit properties) and 26 transfers were effected. A total of 114 visits were made in connection with this work.



# SUMMARY OF THE REMAINDER OF THE WORK OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

## DRAINAGE AND SANITARY CONVENIENCES

No. of properties inspected	...	...	...	...	...	49
Total number of inspections (5 Formal Notices — all complied)	...	...	...	...	...	104
No. of nuisances abated (excluding work by cesspool emptier)	...	...	...	...	...	15
No. of conservancy closets replaced by waterclosets (including improvement grant work)	...	...	...	...	...	23

## OTHER NUISANCES

Animals	Inspections	...	...	...	11
	Nuisances abated	...	...	...	3
Accumulations of refuse	Inspections	...	...	...	25
	Nuisances abated	...	...	...	8
Filthy Premises	Inspections (1 Formal Notice)	...	...	...	10
	Nuisances abated	...	...	...	1
Ditches and Streams	Inspections	...	...	...	19
	Nuisances abated	...	...	...	4
Smoke and Dust	Inspections	...	...	...	3
	Nuisances abated	...	...	...	2
Total number of inspections made by Public Health					
Inspectors and Pupil	...	...	...	...	1548

These figures do not include the work of the Pest Officer, Rodent Operator or Cleansing Staff which is dealt with under the respective headings.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

PART I OF THE ACT

1. INSPECTIONS

Premises	Number on Register	Number of Inspections	Number of Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	1	1	—	—
(ii) Factories not in- cluded in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	38	3	—	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is en- forced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	6	6	—	—
Total	45	10	—	—

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Nil.

PART VIII OF THE ACT

Outwork — No. of workers required by Section 133(1)(c):  
 Making, etc., of wearing apparel: 2.

May 1968.







